

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 05697 071312Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 MCT-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 OPR-02 /066 W
-----127783 071754Z /40

R 071248Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4722
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

CONFIDENTIAL DAMASCUS 5697

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SY
SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION IN SYRIA

REF: DAMASCUS 2038

1. DURING VISIT TO ALEPO LAST WEEK, I CALLED ON CHIEF OF POLICE, BRIG. GENERAL ABDULLAH NABULSI, AN ACQUAINTANCE OF SEVERAL YEARS STANDING.

DISCUSSING SECURITY SCENE IN ALEPO, WHICH NABULSI DESCRIBED AS UNEVENTFUL FOR PAST SEVERAL MONTHS (AN EVALUATION ENDORSED BY PRIVATE ALLEPANS), HE REVEALED THAT SARG HAD ARRESTED A SMALL GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDERS OF UNIVERSITY RECTOR AL-FADIL, AND AIR DEFENSE CHIEF RAZZUQ AS WELL AS FOR THE JULY CAR BOMBINGS IN DAMASCUS.

2. NABULSI SAID THAT THESE MEN WERE ARRESTED IN ALEPO DURING AUGUST ON THE BASIS OF A LEAD FROM A GOVERNMENT INFORMANT. HE DESCRIBED THEM MERELY AS "SYRIANS IN THE

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 05697 071312Z

PAY OF IRAQ" AND SAID THEY WOULD SHORTLY BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL BEFORE THE STATE SECURITY COURT.

4. COMMENT:

THE ARREST OF THIS GROUP MAY EXPLAIN WHY WE HAVE HAD NO MAJOR SECURITY INCIDENTS IN COUNTRY SINCE THE JULY 10

BOMBING IN FRONT OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IN DAMASCUS.
WOULD ALSO NOTE THAT, TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, LATTAKIA AND
HOMS HAVE BEEN WITHOUT INCIDENTS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. THE
PERPETRATORS OF THE ACTS IN DAMASCUS OBVIOUSLY FOCUSED ON THE
CAPITAL IN ORDER TO GAIN THE MAXIMUM
PUBLICITY IN THEIR EFFORT TO STIMULATE POPULAR UNEASINESS.
WE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED WIDE PUBLICITY OF FACT OF ARRESTS,
BUT SYRIAN AUTHORITIES MAY NOT KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THEIR PRIOR
CLAIM TO HAVE ARRESTED AL-FADIL MURDERERS LAST MARCH. THOSE
ARRESTED AT THAT TIME WERE NEVER TRIED (SEE REFTEL).
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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SAS ID: 1369141
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY SITUATION IN SYRIA
TAGS: PINS, SY
To: STATE
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